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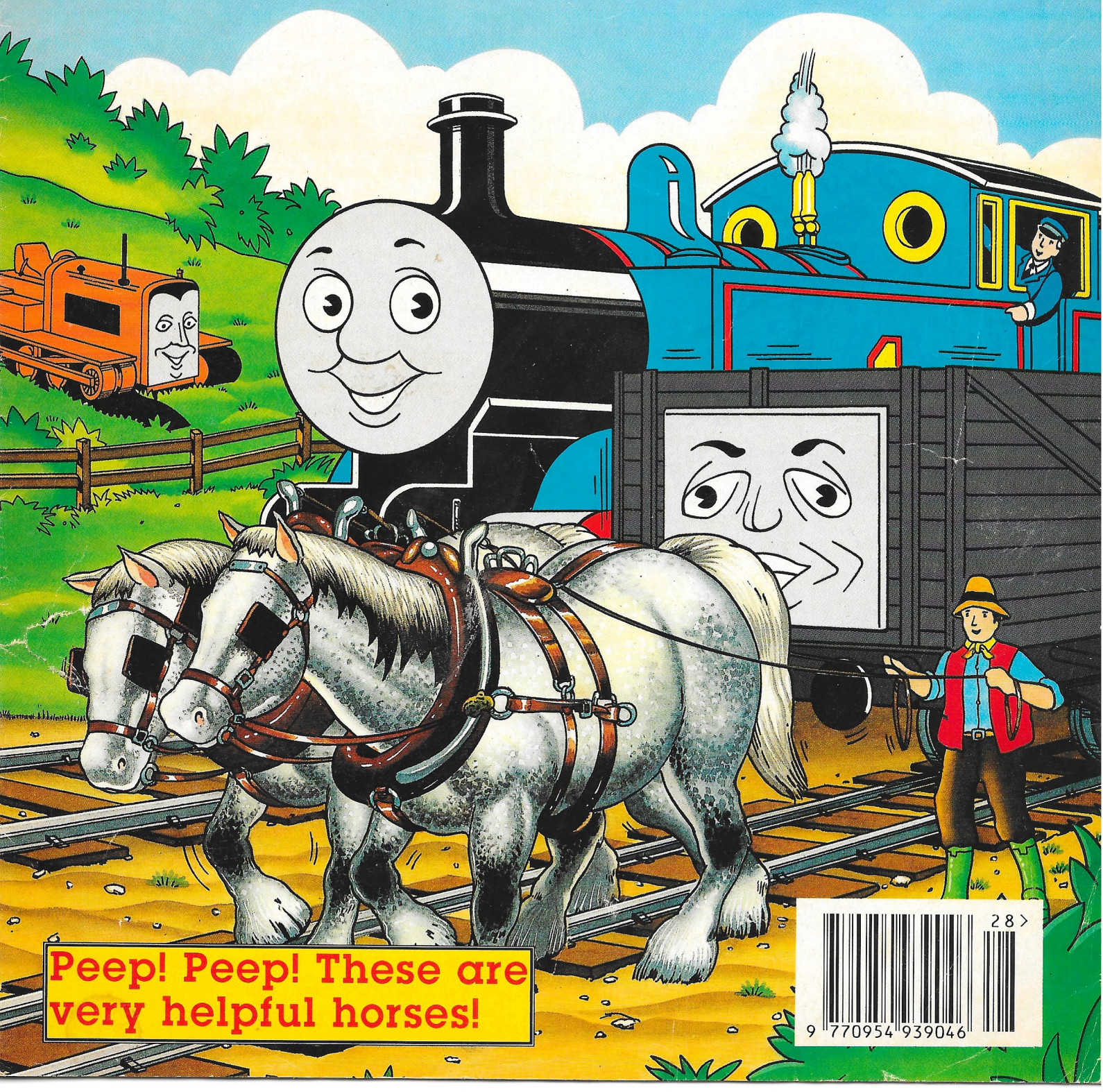
16th July'93
№150 60p

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Based on the Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.



Peep! Peep! These are very helpful horses!

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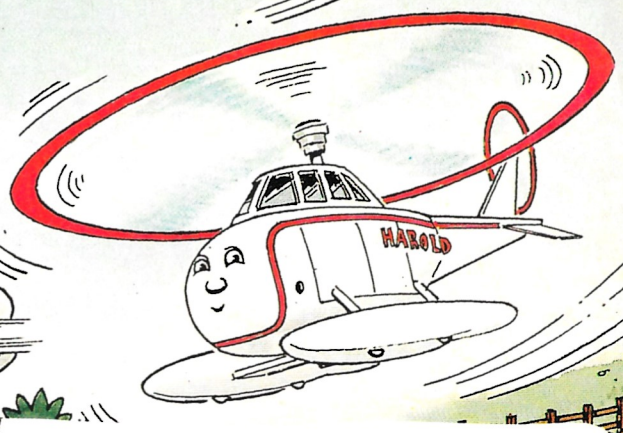
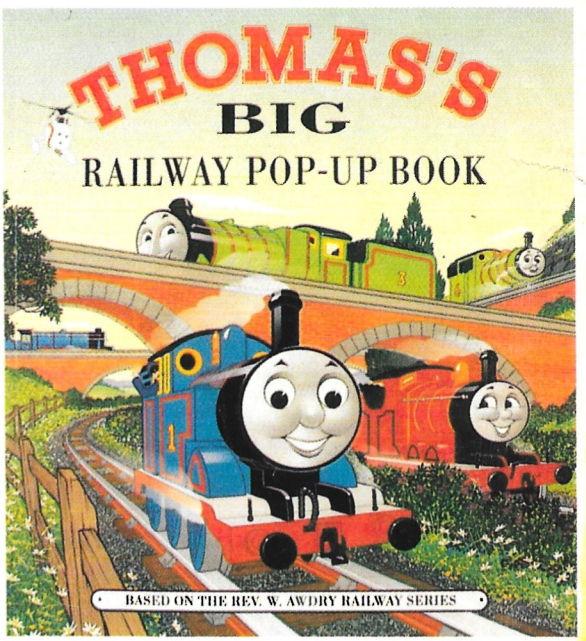
NOTICEBOARD

Peep! Peep! It's harvest time on the Island of Sodor and there are so many important jobs to be done. At this time of year, Terence the Tractor works very hard indeed. In the story that begins on page 3, Terence has had an accident. Who will help Terence to complete his task? In our second story, there is an unusual discovery! Peep! Peep!



SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT!

Very soon, our readers will have the opportunity to win some exciting new Thomas Books from *Heinemann Young Books*, including a spectacular large format **Pop-up book** (featured below) and a **lift the flap and peep through** book. There will also be easy to read **picture books** on offer. We will be running one competition per month beginning in issue **151** and continuing for the remainder of 1993!



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THOMAS TOKEN

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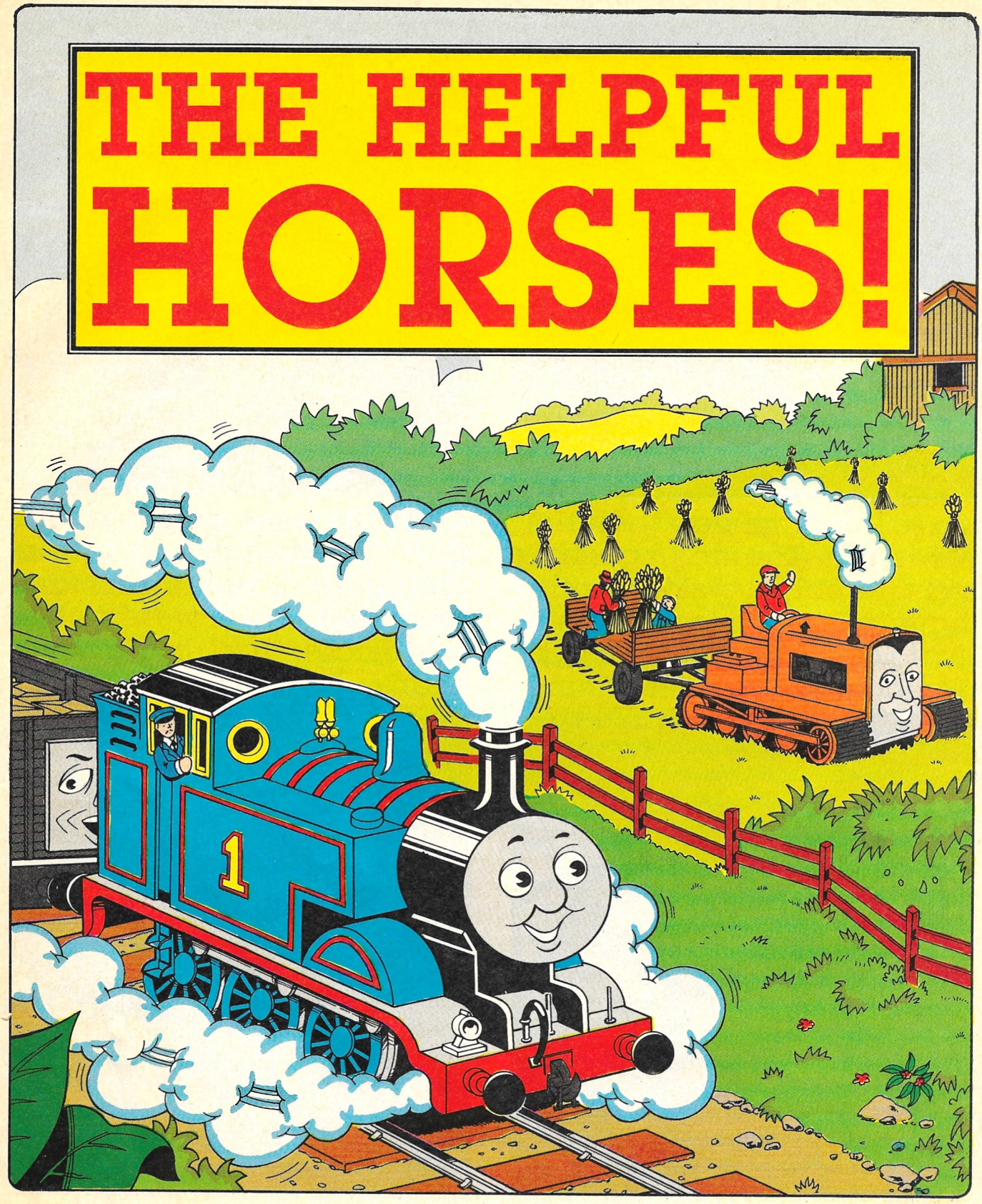
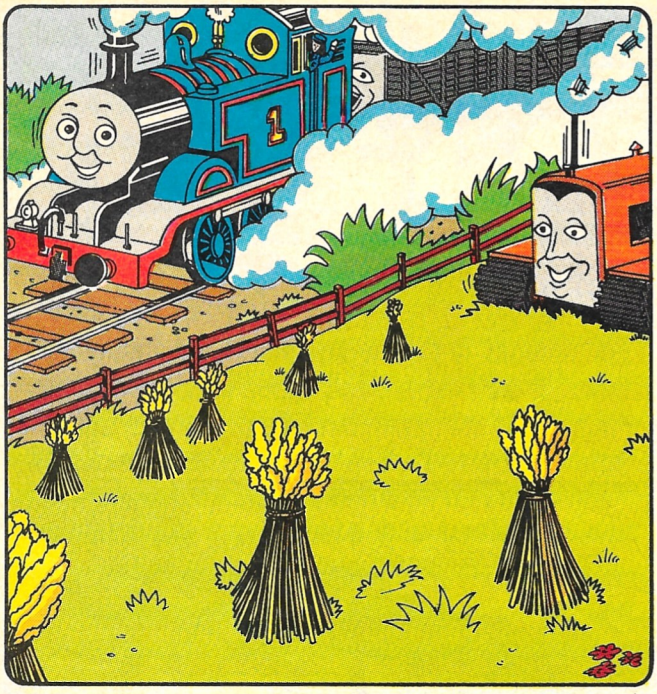
THE HELPFUL HORSES!

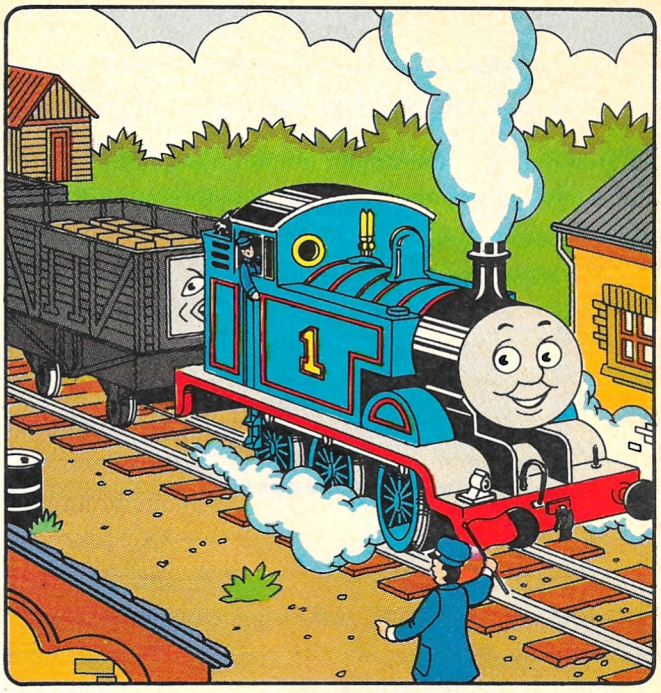


1. It was harvest-time on the Island of Sodor. One sunny morning, as Thomas pulled a goods train on his branch line, he saw men working in a field.

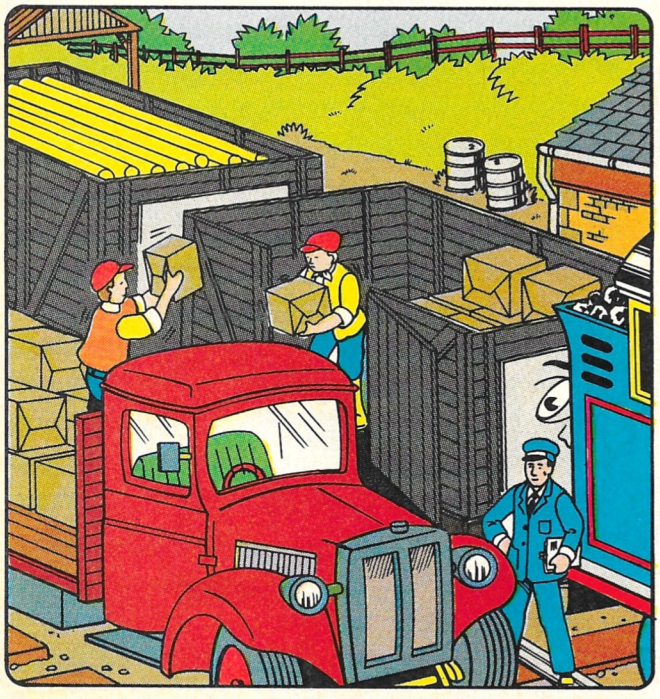
2. The farmer and his farmhands were busily loading sheaves of corn into a big cart. It was pulled by Thomas's friend, Terence the Tractor.



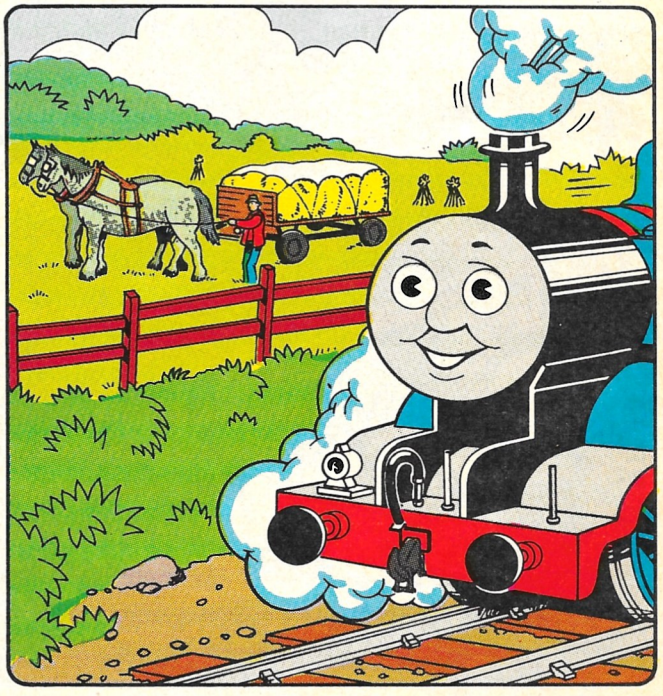
3. "Peep! Peep! Hello!" whistled Thomas, puffing past. "I only go slowly but I have a heavy load to pull, just like Thomas," thought Terence.



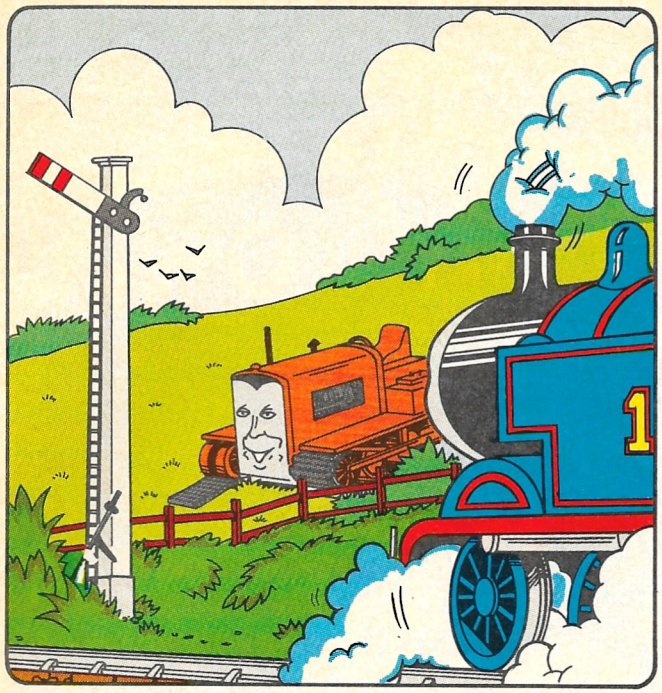
4. At the next station on his line, Thomas rolled into a siding to have his trucks unloaded. They were full of materials for a factory nearby.



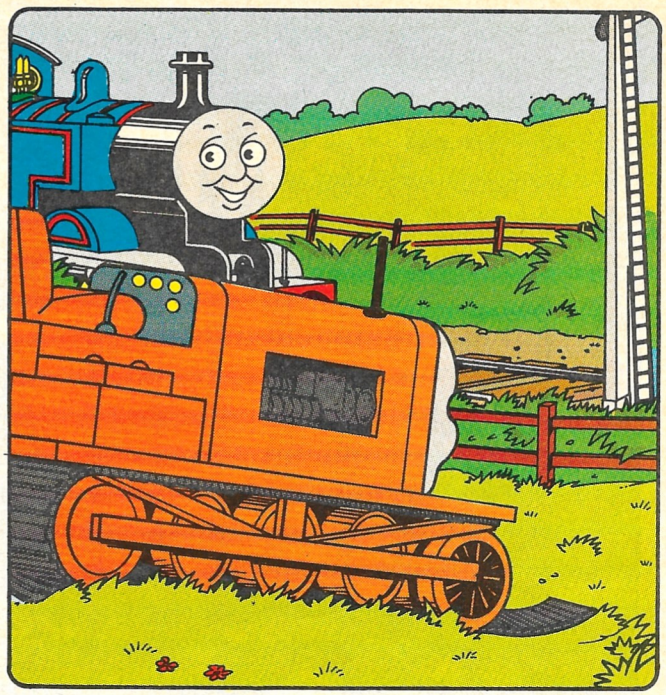
5. Very soon a lorry arrived from the factory to collect the supplies. When all Thomas's trucks were empty, he set off back down his branch line.



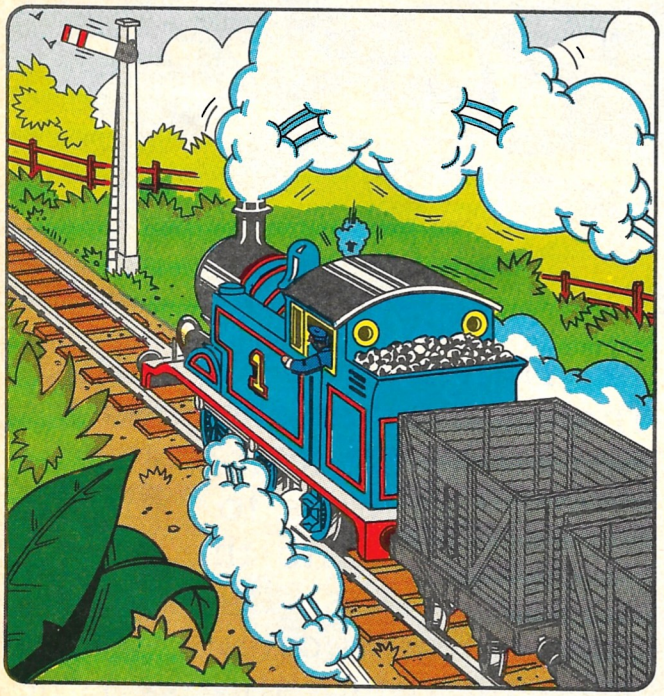
6. "I wonder if Terence has delivered his load by now?" thought Thomas. As he neared the field he was surprised to see two horses pulling the cart.



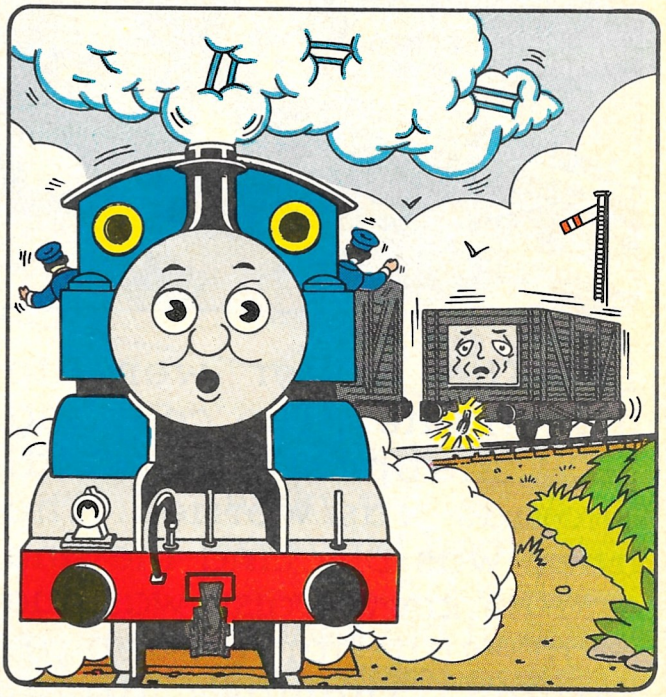
7. The horses were very big indeed. Terence was standing in the corner of the field. A signal was at 'stop' so Thomas pulled up on the line, near him.



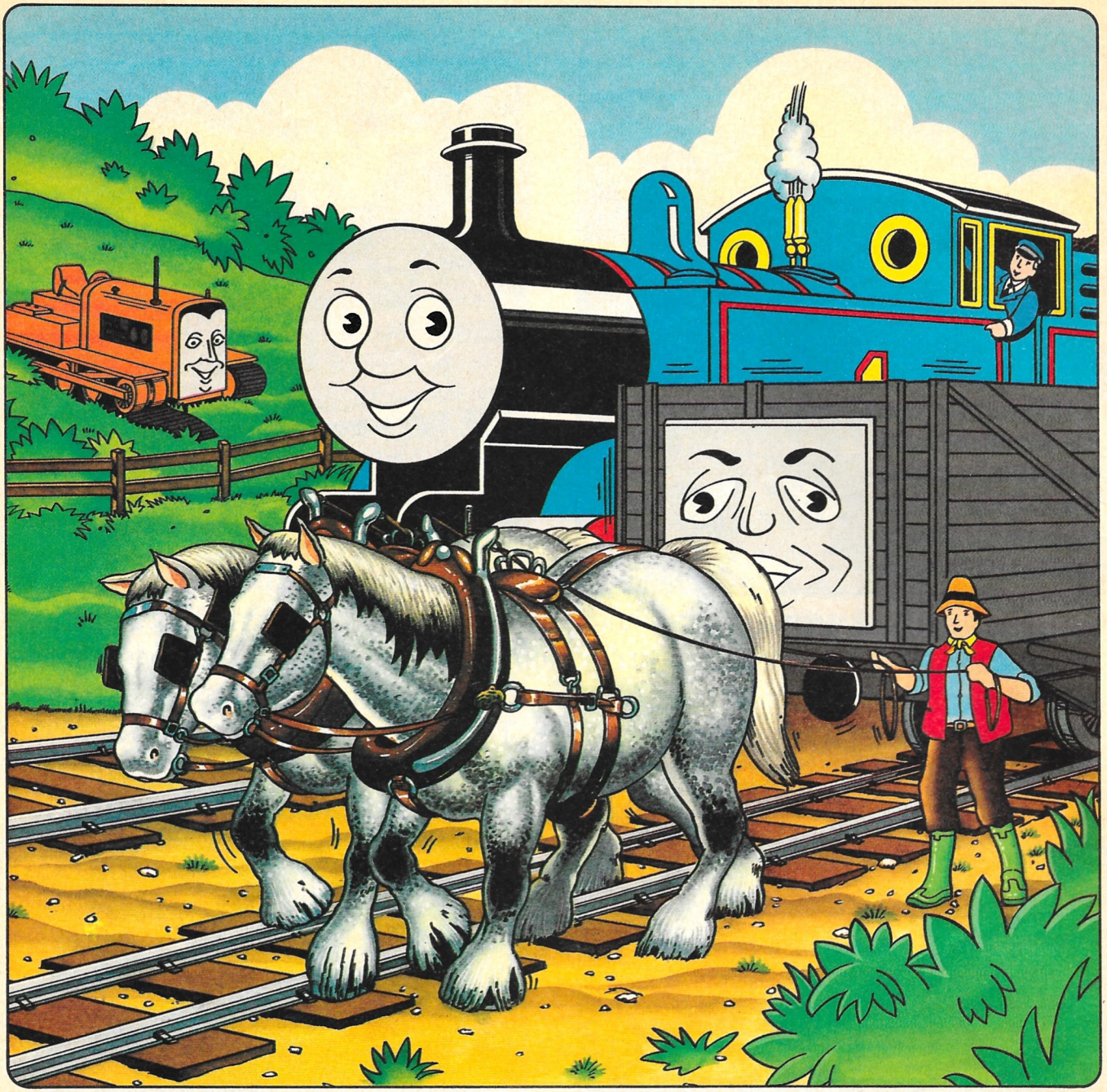
8. "What's the matter?" asked Thomas. "One of my caterpillar treads broke!" Terence replied. "The shire horses will pull the cart until I am repaired!"



9. "Fancy," gasped Thomas. "Those grand horses are as strong as a tractor!" The signal moved to show the line was clear and Thomas chugged slowly forwards.



10. Suddenly, there was a loud noise. Thomas was startled. His driver urgently applied the brake. Then he spotted a truck had broken loose.



11. The driver went to investigate. "The coupling has snapped!" he said. Thomas was worried. The truck was blocking the line and he knew Daisy was due soon with her passenger service. Thomas's driver spoke to the farmer, who unharnessed his shire horses from the cart. He hitched them to the truck.

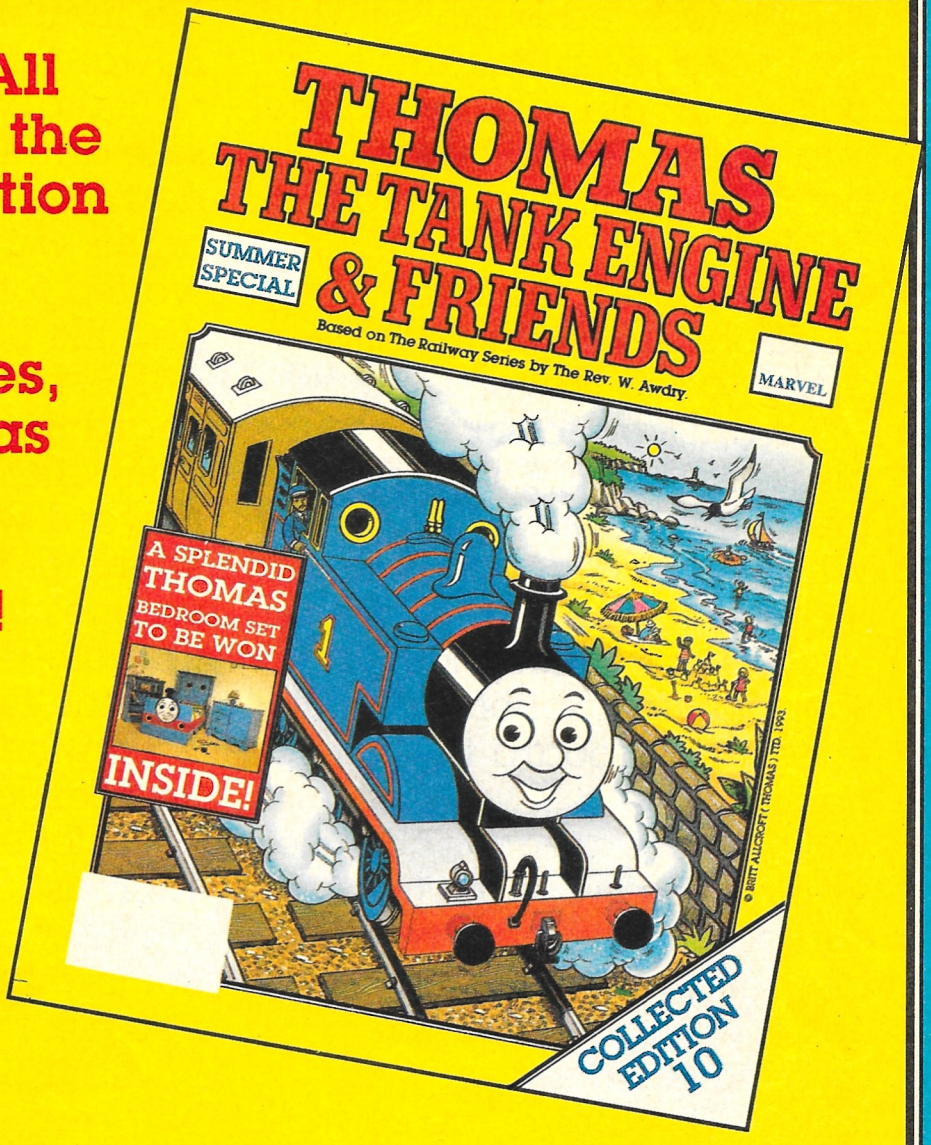
12. Nearby was a siding. Thomas's driver changed the points and the farmer led the powerful horses to pull the truck safely into the siding. Thomas was impressed. Before he steamed on his way, his driver thanked the farmer. "Those shire horses can do the work of an engine too, Thomas!" called Terence.

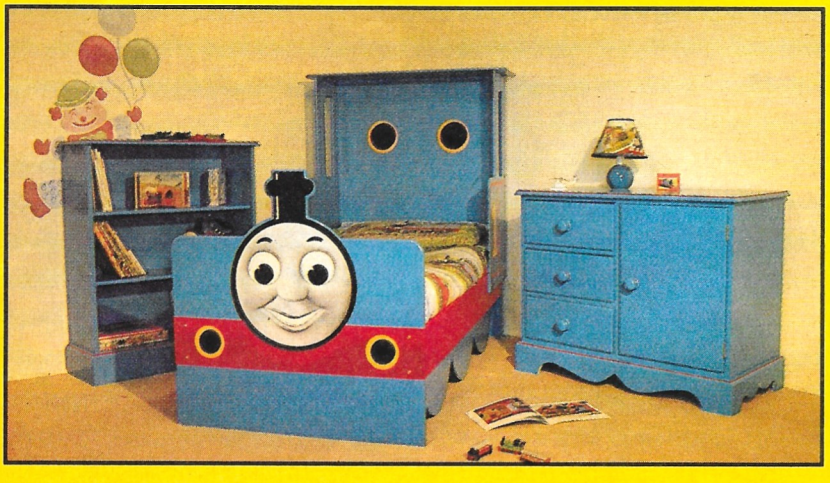
THE END!

In our next issue: Duck and the pirates!

SUMMER SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT!

Peep! Peep! All aboard, for the latest compilation of Thomas the Tank Engine's favourite stories, puzzles! Thomas Collected Edition No.10 is on sale now! Order your copy TODAY! There are two splendid competitions for you to enter too!





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THE MUSHROOM EXPRESS!

Each day, as the Fat Controller's engines steamed busily up and down the main line, they passed an old, disused tunnel in a siding. It had been boarded up to stop anyone entering.

One morning, the Fat Controller brought a visitor along to see Edward.

"I want you to take us to the disused tunnel, Edward," said the Fat Controller.

While Edward was coupled to a carriage, the Fat Controller fetched the Chief Engineer. Soon Edward set off with all three men aboard the carriage.

When Edward arrived at the siding, his passengers climbed down and went to inspect the tunnel. The Chief engineer unblocked the entrance and led the way inside. The tunnel was dark and he carried a torch to light the way.

Edward wondered why the visitor wanted to go into the tunnel. Just then, Gordon steamed along the main line with the Express. He pulled up at a signal which was at 'stop'. As Gordon waited for it to show the line was clear, he saw Edward by the old tunnel.

"What are you doing by the old tunnel?" called Gordon. Edward quickly explained.

"Perhaps the tunnel is not safe and is to be pulled down!" he said. Gordon puffed on his way while Edward waited for the Fat Controller and the others to return.

"The tunnel is perfect!" he heard the visitor tell the Fat Controller.

Edward was puzzled. That evening, in the shed, all the engines talked about the old tunnel.

"If the tunnel is perfect, why would the Fat Controller have it knocked down," said Henry.

"Perfect for what?" asked Thomas.

"Perfect for engines, of course!" snorted Gordon. "If you ask me, the Fat Controller plans to reopen the tunnel. I will be the first to use it because I am the biggest and most important!"

Next morning, as the engines went about their work, Gordon grandly pulled the Express along the main line. He saw men and lorries by the old tunnel. He wondered what the men were doing. Later at the yard, he told Edward.

"It's a mystery!" said Edward.
For week after week, Gordon and the other engines noticed people going in and out of the tunnel. Then the Fat Controller called Edward.

"I have a new task for you," he said.
Edward was coupled to a carriage and some trucks. The Fat Controller went with him to the tunnel.
The Fat Controller's visitor was waiting there with his helpers.

"The first mushrooms we have grown in the tunnel are ready to be sold," said the man proudly. Edward was surprised.

"Mushrooms!" he gasped.

"Yes," replied the Fat Controller. "They grow splendidly in old railway tunnels. I have rented the tunnel to a mushroom farmer."

The boxes of mushrooms were loaded onto Edward's goods train.

"Growing mushrooms in the tunnel will mean extra freight business for my railway," added the Fat Controller.

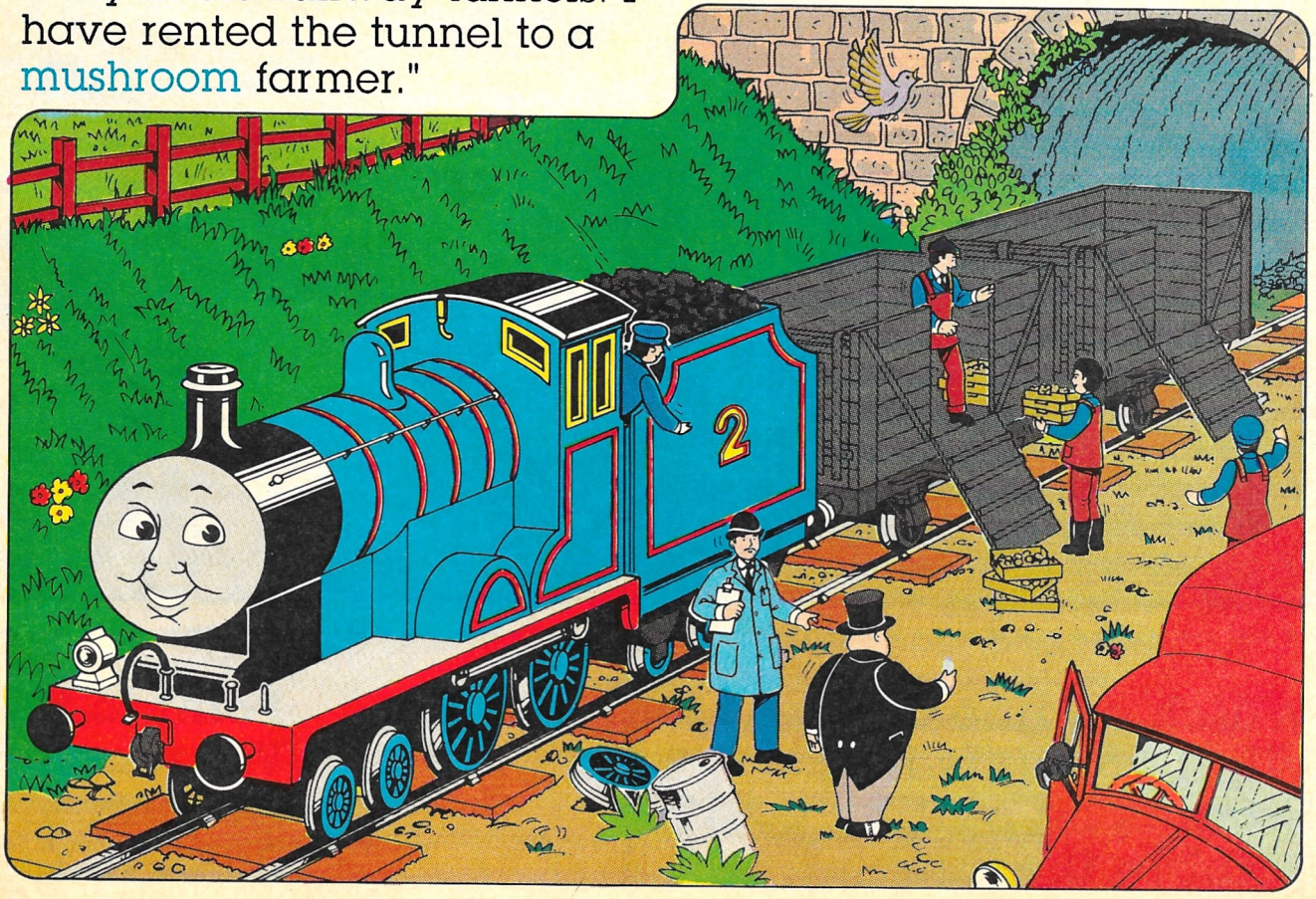
mushrooms

"I don't understand, sir!" said Edward.

"You are to deliver each crop of mushrooms to market!" said the Fat Controller.
Edward was very pleased indeed.

"Wait till I tell Gordon," he said proudly. "From now on, I am to pull the Mushroom Express!"

THE END!



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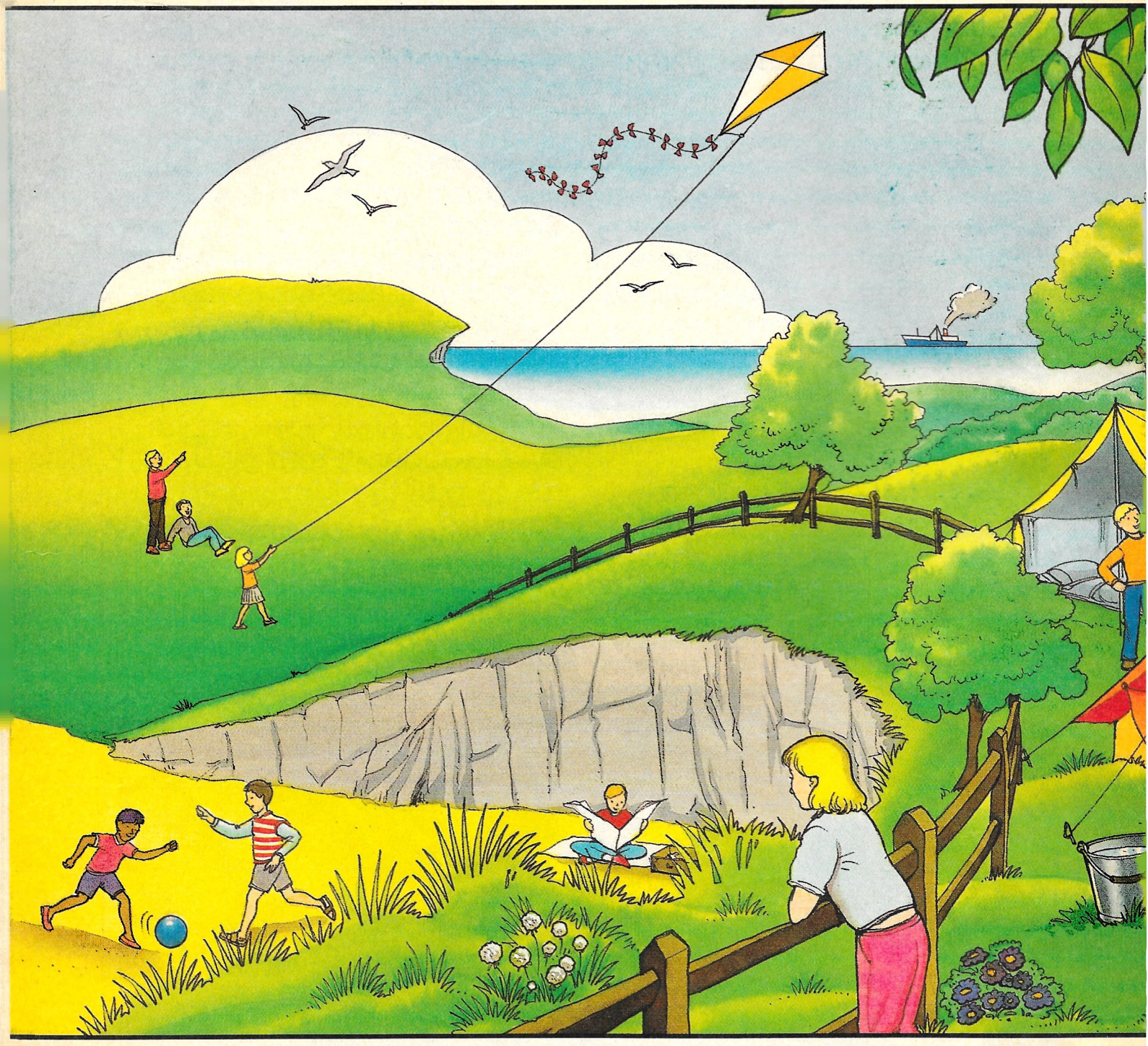

Which engine can you see?
What colour is he?
What is he puffing past?
Point to the kite!

Point to the ten
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Point to the wa

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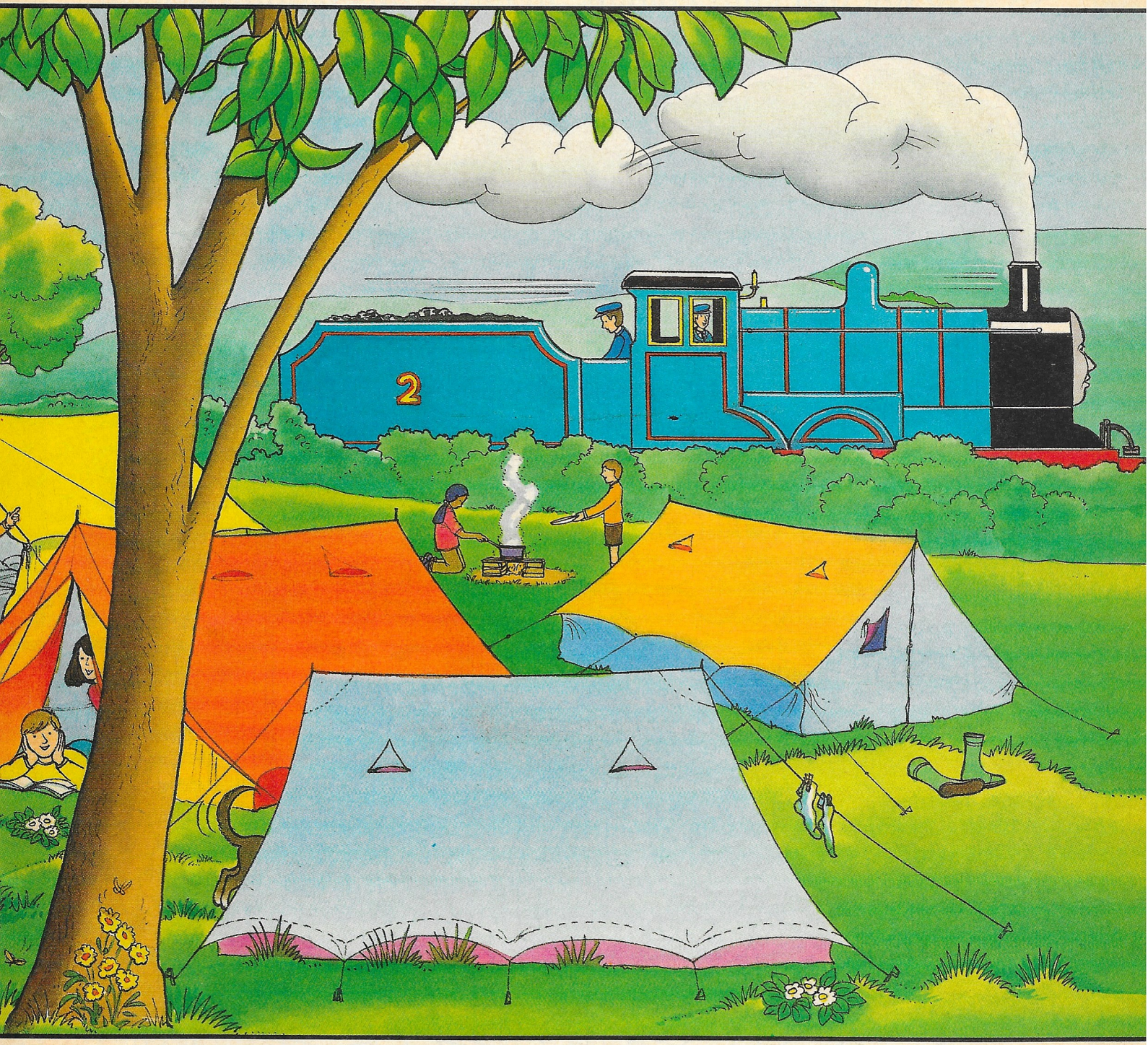

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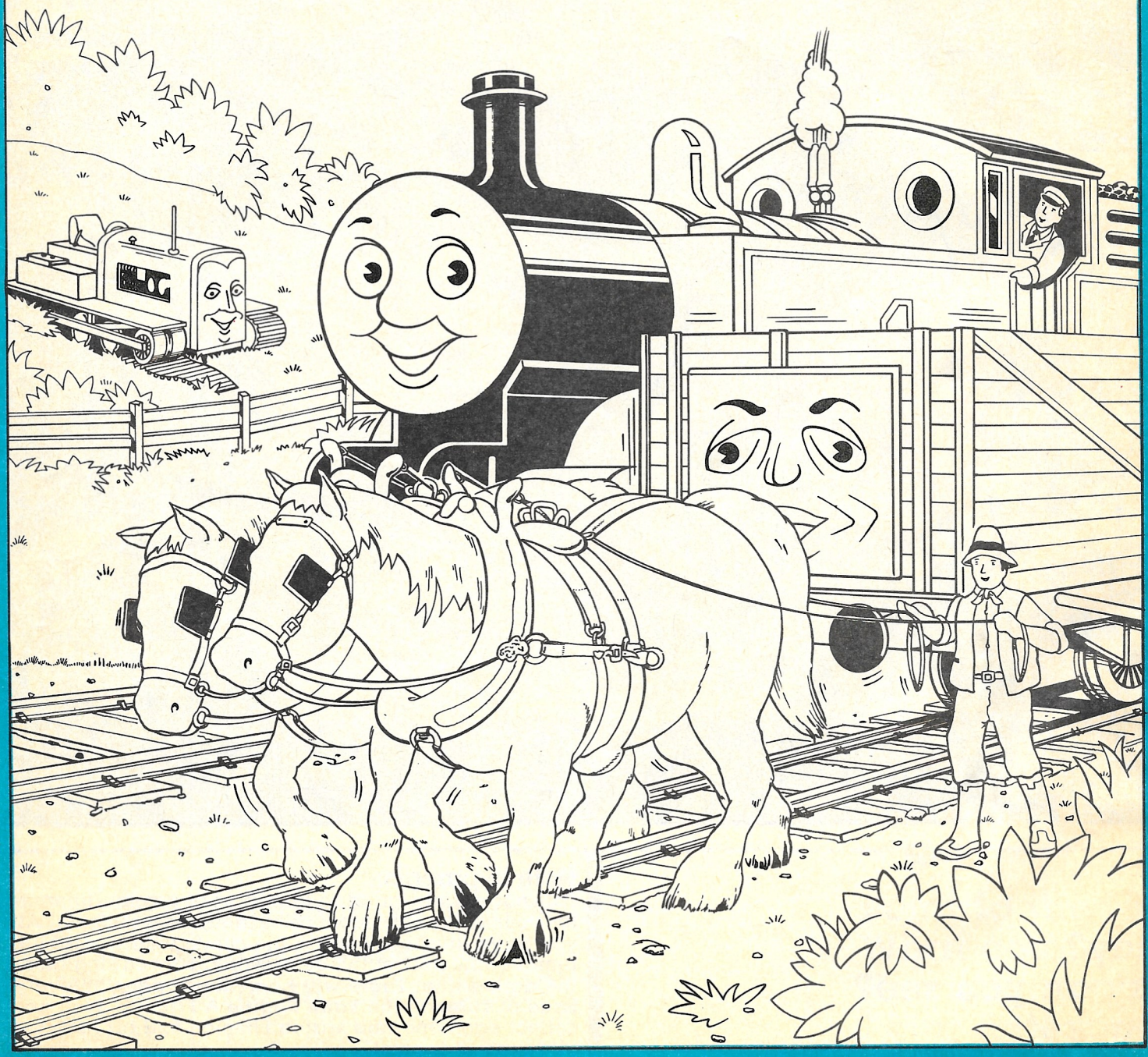
Note to parents:
This page is designed to form part of a colourful mural for your child's bedroom, playgroup or classroom. After you have finished reading the comic with your child, remove this part of the centrespread by cutting along the dotted line. There will be a **'mural page'** in every issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends**. Why not collect each one and watch Thomas and his friends puff all round the room!

In our next issue: Back to the beach!

COLOURING TIME!

Horses on the line are such an unusual sight.
So why not use your colours, to make this picture bright!



JOIN THE DOTS!

Where do you think the campers could be?
Join the dots and you will see!

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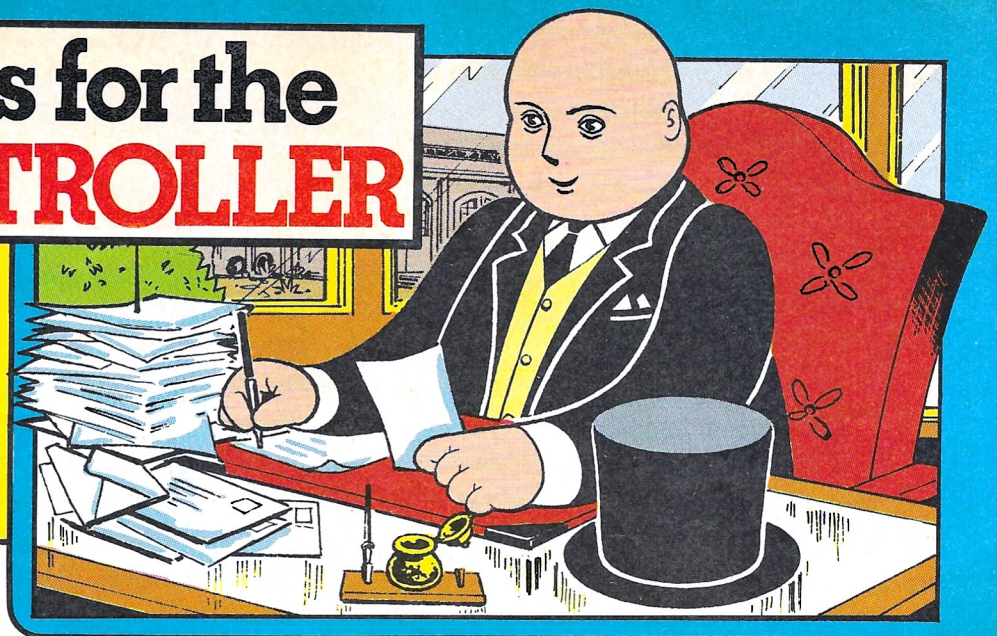
Your letters for the FAT CONTROLLER



Have you got an amusing story to tell? Do you have a question you would like to ask about Thomas or his friends? If so, then write to me at the address shown below! I would be so very pleased to hear from you!

STAR LETTER!

Dear Fat Controller,
Recently, we went on holiday to the Lappa Valley railway in Cornwall and rode on coaches pulled by a red steam engine. It reminded us of James and his coaches!
Love from **Glenn** and **Dale Burnham**, aged 3.

My! It looks as though you travelled on a very special railway and some fine coaches too! I'm sure you will remember your holiday for a very long time!

The sender of any letter that is printed as our **STAR LETTER** will win some splendid **Thomas Pre-school** toys courtesy of *ERTL (UK) Ltd.*

DIESEL ENGINE!

Dear Fat Controller,
My favourite engine is Daisy and I like Thomas the Tank Engine too! What kind of Engine is Boco?
Love from **Christopher Burton**, aged 6.

Boco is a very fine diesel engine who often works with Bill and Ben, the twin saddle-tank engines!

FAVOURITE STORIES!

Dear Fat Controller,
I liked the story called **"Who's there!"** **Percy** thought there was a ghost in Trevor's shed, but **Thomas** was brave and not scared at all. I think they were all pleased it was only Terence and not a ghost. He would have been a funny ghost wouldn't he?
Love from **Toby**, aged 4.

Yes! My engines did not expect to find Terence staying in Trevor's shed but the Vicar had invited him to clear away some trees in the orchard. Terence was very amused at being named as the ***"Ghost Tractor!"***

BIRTHDAYS!

Richard Sheppard, John Nolan, James Skinner, Daniel Bainbridge, Scott Killick, Paul Clifford Hodgson, James Murphy, Jonathan Chew, Jonathan Lim, Jamie Walker, John Patterson, Alexander Cartwright, Sean Keywood, Dean Strachan, Daniel Free, Michael Dye, Susanne Naomi Turton, David Firth and Keiran Murphy.

If you would like a birthday mention printed in one of our future issues, please send details on a post-card at least **nine weeks** in advance!

Yours
Sir Topham Hatt
The Fat Controller!

Send your letters to:

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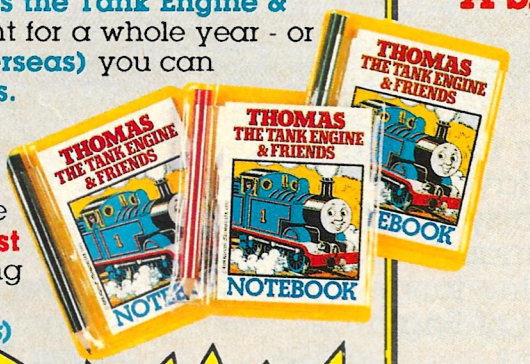

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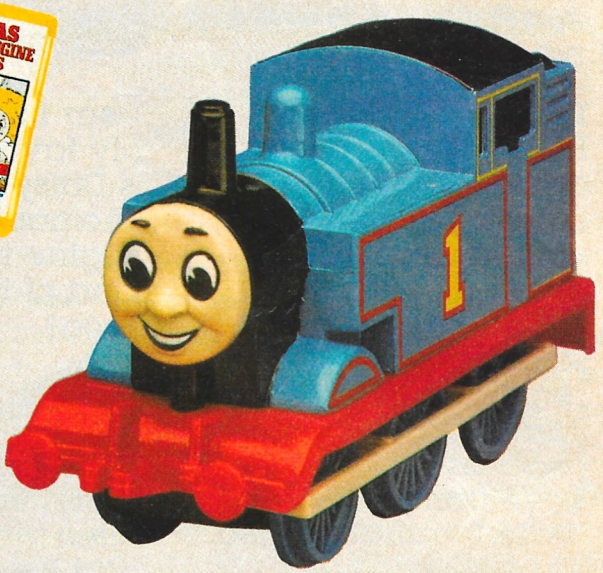

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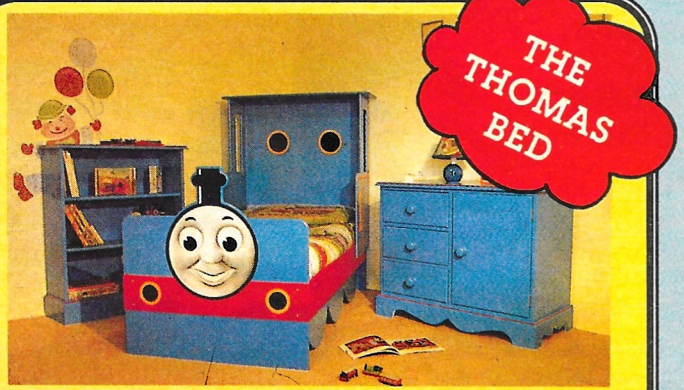

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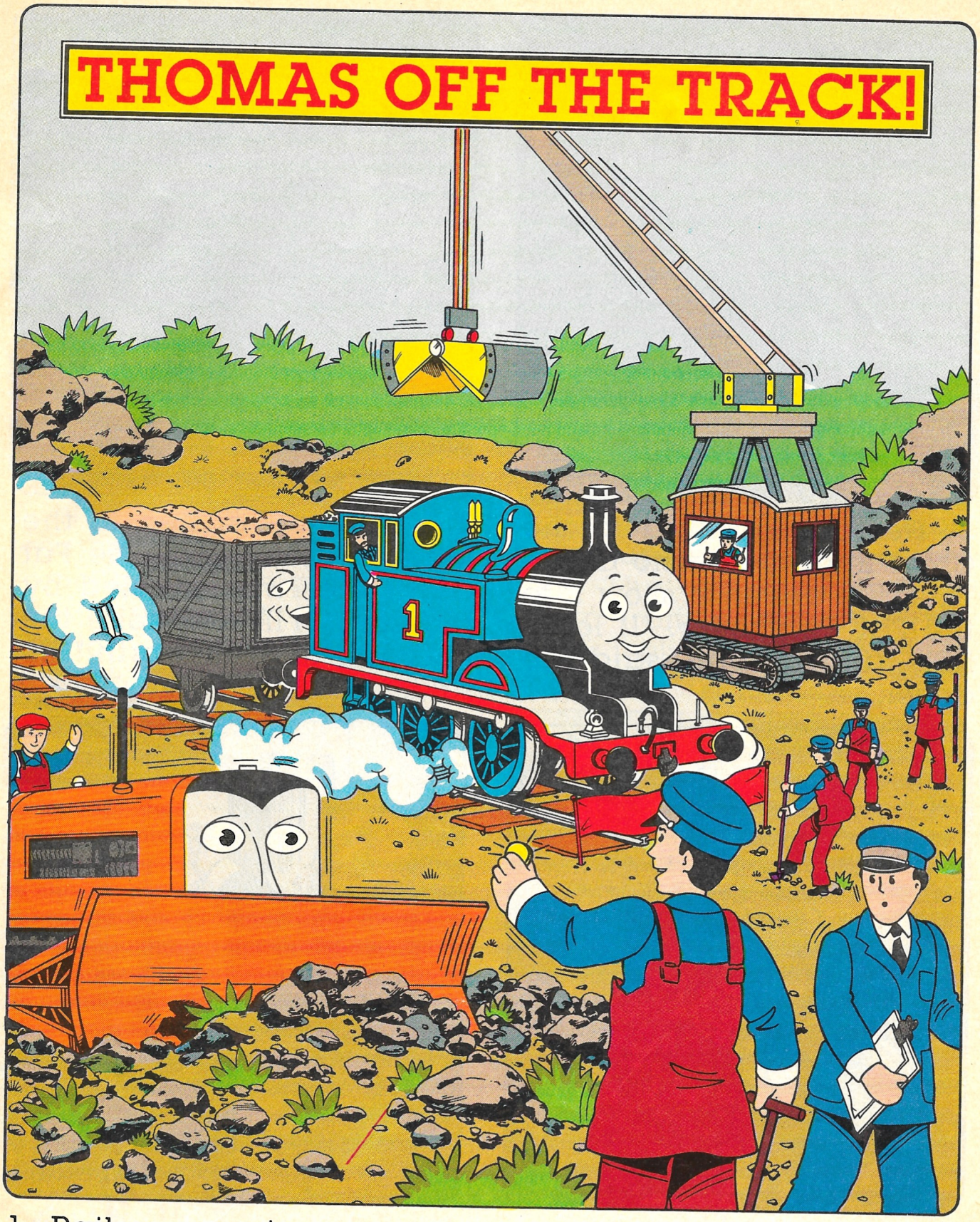
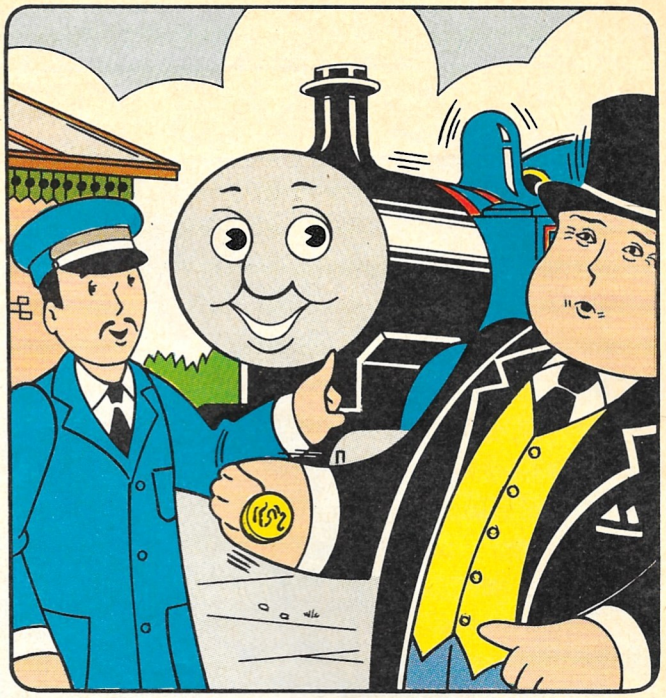
THOMAS OFF THE TRACK!



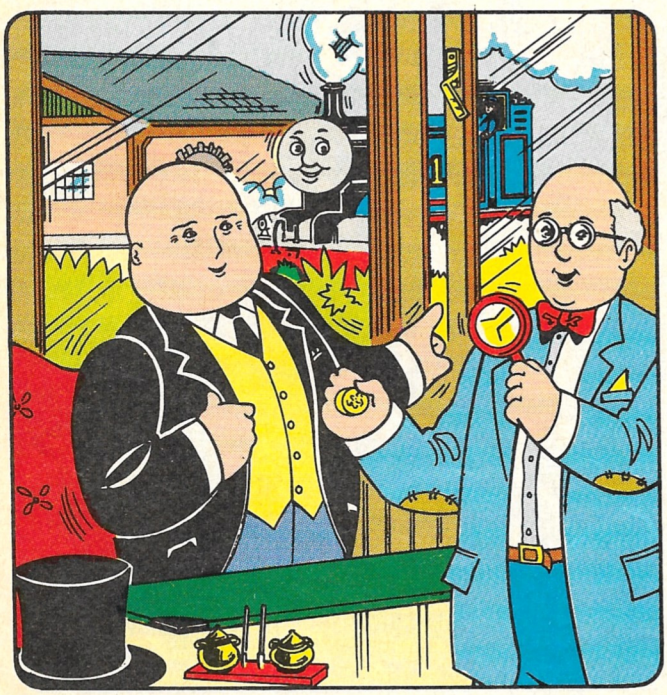
1. Railway engineers were digging a cutting through a hillside, to lay more track on Thomas's branch line. Terence the tractor helped to clear the earth.

2. It was loaded into Thomas's trucks. As the last truck was being filled, a workman spotted something shiny in the mound of earth.

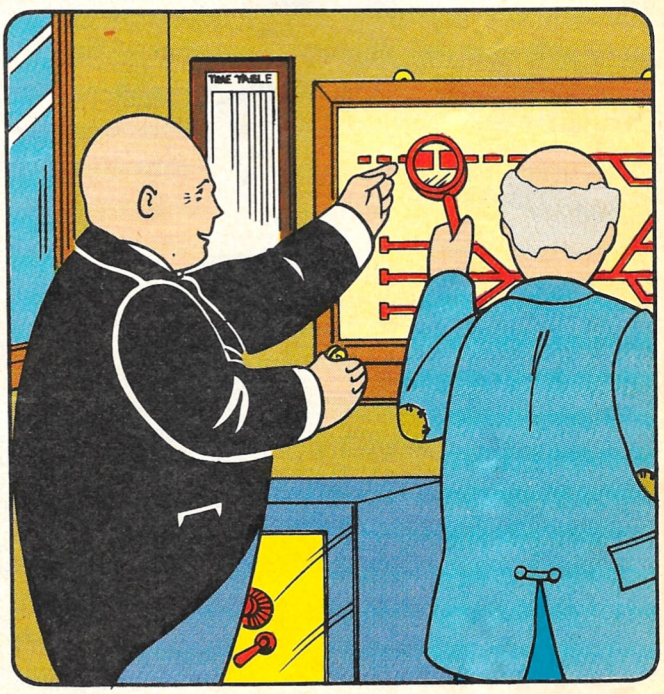
3. He took his find to the Chief Engineer, who asked Thomas's driver to show it to the Fat Controller. "It looks like an old coin!" said the driver.



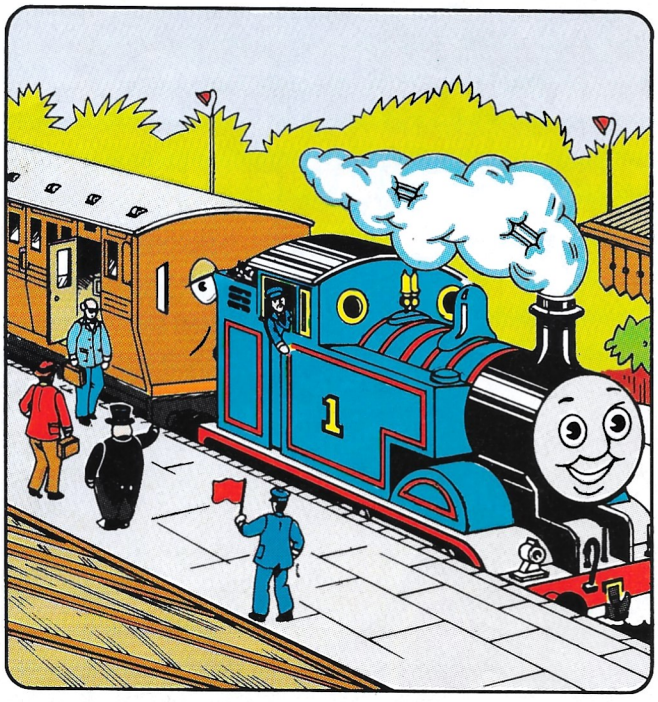
4. Thomas returned to the Main Station yard. The Fat Controller was puzzled by the coin. "I'll telephone the museum at Wellsworth," he said.



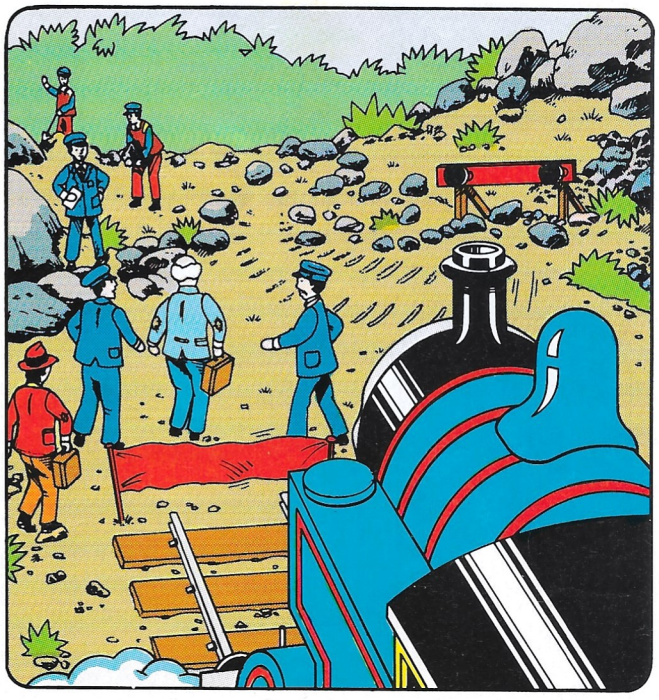
5. The museum curator came to see the Fat Controller. The visitor was excited by the coin. "It is very rare and at least four hundred years old" he explained.



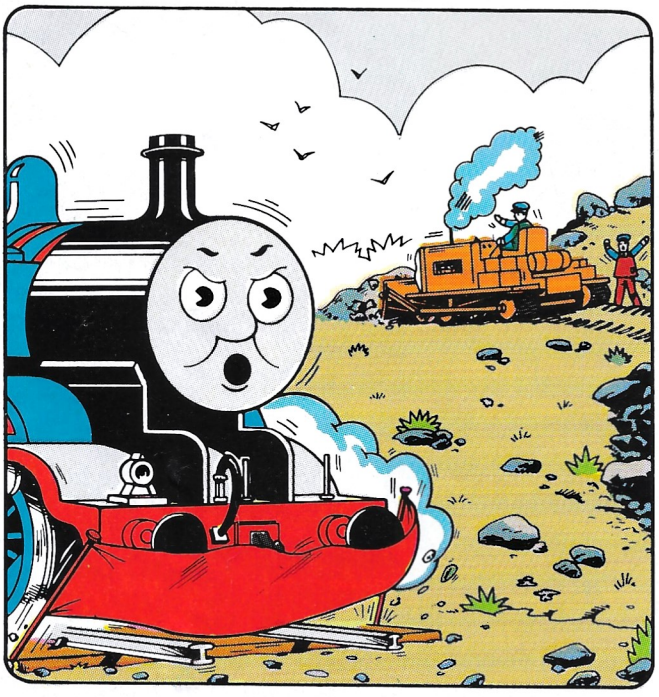
6. The curator asked the Fat Controller if experts, called archaeologists, could visit the cutting to try and uncover any other ancient finds at the site.



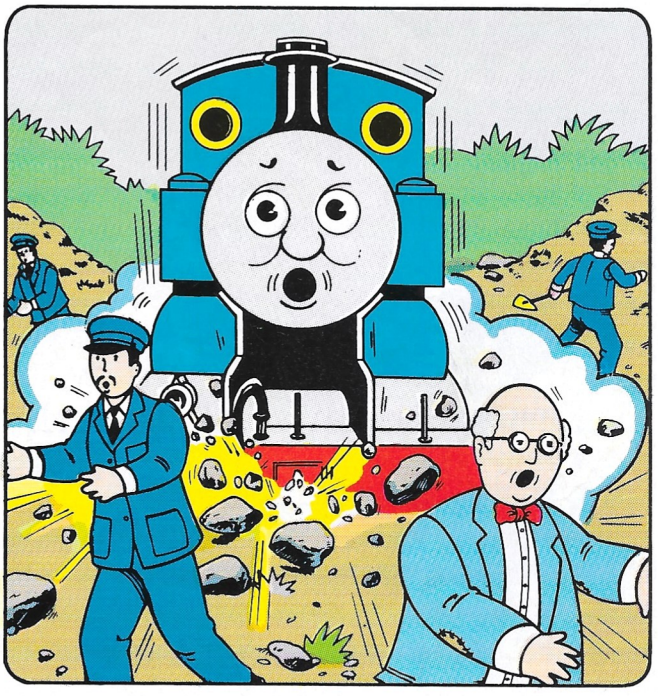
7. Next morning, Thomas was coupled to Annie and some trucks. He picked up the experts at the Main Station, and then set off towards the cutting.



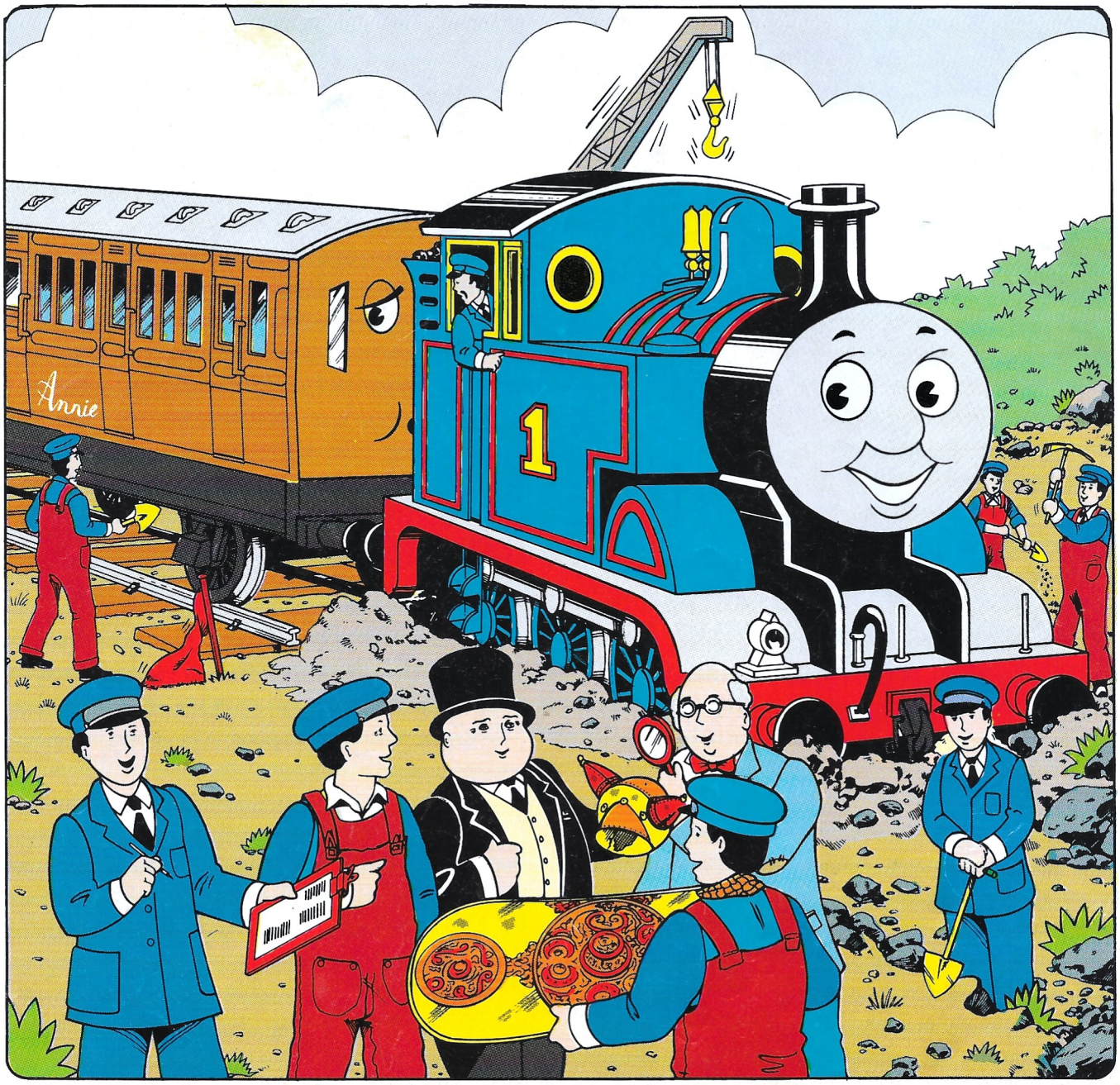
8. When he arrived, Thomas pulled up near the end of the line. The experts climbed down from Annie and the driver took them to the Chief Engineer.



9. Suddenly, Thomas felt his wheels turn. "Smoke and fire!" he cried. "My brake is slipping!" Thomas rolled slowly forwards where men were digging.



10. "Look out!" he cried as the men jumped clear. The buffers had been removed ready to lay new track. Thomas ran off the line into the hillside.



11. He came to a halt with his face in the soft earth. "Groogh!" Thomas spluttered. Luckily, no one was hurt. "I'll send for a crane to lift Thomas back on to the rails!" said the Chief Engineer. First, Thomas had to be dug out of the hillside. The archaeologists helped. Then one shouted in surprise.

12. He had uncovered a helmet and shield with his spade. "These ancient finds are even more splendid than the coin!" agreed the archaeologists. "Thank you, Thomas, for unearthing them!" "It was worth being derailed," puffed Thomas proudly, "but I'm glad you dug me out, too!"

THE END!

In our next issue: The rockslide!